

## Aging In Place and Community

### Meeting Notes

April 13, 2011

**Commission Members:** Beth Shapiro, Grace Whipple (co-chairs), Elaine Binder, Charles Kaufman, Miriam Kelty, Leslie Marks, Spence Schron, Judy Welles

Topic	Discussion Points	Decisions/follow-up
Summer Study Proposals	<p>Suggestions included:</p> <p><b>Housing</b> - look at policy and regulations that affect how government can encourage housing opportunities for seniors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accessory apartments</li><li>• Co-housing</li><li>• What housing concepts would the COA endorse?</li><li>• Identify the obstacles to achieving set goals and how to overcome them.</li></ul> <p>Invite Nancy Floreen and Marc Elrich to Summer Study.</p> <p><b>Social Isolation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define social isolation in terms of Montgomery County seniors.</li><li>• What problems are created by social isolation?</li><li>• Identify obstacles to engaging seniors and possible solutions to social isolation based on studies and activities in communities, other counties or states</li><li>• Suggest recommendations for policy</li><li>• Make recommendations for ways to promote 'connectivity'</li></ul>	<p>Outcome: Are there senior housing concepts that COA should endorse and what process should COA take to have instituted?</p> <p>What are obstacles to achieve this goal and what should be done to overcome?</p> <p>Outcome: Recommendation of policy that will further connectivity (example: transportation to senior centers for social isolation prevention). Could be follow-up activity for COA Stakeholders task force and interested stakeholders. Will also be discussed in the Communications Committee.</p>

	<p><b>Strategies for Communication with Stakeholders</b></p> <p>Plan for on-going dialogue with Stakeholders; to reach out to about COA interests.</p>	
Neighbors Assisting Neighbors Senior Needs Assessment Survey	<p>Miriam talked about a senior needs assessment that was done in her Bannockburn community by Neighbors Assisting Neighbors (NAN). Response rate was 45% for 450 households. Block coordinators distributed the forms and asked for them to be returned to the clubhouse. The results were: Transportation, Social Visiting and Errands. Next survey will be done one line with hard copies to those without computers.</p> <p>She also noted that some older residents are moving to Maplewood. They are not happy about moving but are doing so due to pressure from adult children.</p> <p>It was also noted in the discussion that Community Partners, a program that ran from 2003 – 2009, did a survey of 300 Montgomery County seniors and came up with the same results. Transportation and socialization were the top two interests of seniors.</p>	<p>Talk with Ken Hartman of B-CC Regional Service Center and have a ‘listening’ session of what is needed from the County and how COA can help; share what we have done; find out what has worked and what has not.</p> <p>The goal would be for the Commission to better understand what residents are doing to learn how we might be able to assist.</p> <p>Consider this for this May or the Fall.</p>
County Transportation Policy	<p>Elaine presented an update on the Commission’s transportation plan. The process is only in its infancy. She said a goal is to involve decision makers in MoCo early in the process. Other individuals will also be identified to be involved in the process. Must research what services are available to seniors and which seniors have the ability to use. National Center for Senior Transportation grant was missed for this year.</p>	<p>There are many programs in the County that could be expanded and serve more people. The challenge for them is to figure out how to do so. For example: JCA has an interesting program – Smooth Riding - that if marketed well, could be an excellent alternative for seniors. Expansion of Senior Connection is another program that would be beneficial.</p>